

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner restricted the claims into two groups, and rejected claims 6-10 and 12 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0016818 A1 by Kirani et al. The Restriction Requirement is affirmed and withdrawn claim 2 has been cancelled.

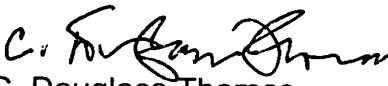
Additionally, Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's rejection of claims 6-10 and 12 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kirani et al. According to 35 USC § 102(e), Kirani et al. is effective as prior art as of its filing date of July 6, 2001. However, the pending application being examined claims priority to a Provisional Patent Application No. 60/266,924 which was filed February 6, 2001. Hence, the effective filing date of the application being examined is prior to the effective filing date of Kurani et al. Accordingly, Kurani et al. is not prior art to the present application under 35 USC § 102(e). Accordingly, it is submitted that the Examiner has not made out a *prima facie* rejection under 35 USC § 102(e). Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 2-6 and 12 under 35 USC § 102(e).

Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

If there are any issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Applicants hereby petition for an extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any further fee required in connection with the filing of this Amendment is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0388 (Order No. RCY1P004).

Respectfully submitted,
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